

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 9 has been amended. Claims 1-8, 16-18, and 21-30 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Accordingly, claims 9-15 and 19-20 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 9 is an independent claim. Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendment(s) may be found at least at page 6, lines 15 through page 7, line 1 of the specification.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 9-15, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the binder has particle sizes of 15 micrometers or less. This amendment is made for the sole purpose of clarifying claim 9. This amendment is not made for the purpose of avoiding prior art or narrowing the claimed invention, and no change in claim scope is intended. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to relinquish any subject matter by these amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9, as amended, fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 9-15, and 19-20.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9-13, 15, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0143462 applied to by Han, *et al.* ("Han") in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,773,838 issued to Suzuki, *et al.* ("Suzuki"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Han is not a proper reference. Since Han is a U.S. Patent Application Publication, it is available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as of its effective U.S. filing date, which is December 6, 2002. See MPEP § 2136.01(I) & MPEP § 706.02(V)(C). Accordingly, Applicants submit that Han is not proper prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because it does not antedate Applicant's priority date of July 10, 2002. A claim of priority to and a certified copy of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2002-0040006 were filed on July 9, 2003. An English translation of the foreign priority document and a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate are attached to this Reply.

Further, Suzuki fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed feature of the present invention as disclosed in claim 9.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 9-13, 15, and 19-20. Claims 10-13, 15, and 19-20 depend from claim 9 and are allowable at least for this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter. As noted above, Suzuki fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed feature of the present invention as disclosed in claim 9. Claim 14 depends from allowable claim 9, and is patentable at least for this reason.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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